## **CLAIMS**

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- 1. A molded article comprising pulp and having an opening portion, a body portion, and a bottom portion, wherein said body portion has no seams, the outer and inner surfaces of said article are smooth, and said body portion has at least one cross-sectional diameter which is greater than a corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion, said corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion being located within the vertical plane which contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion.
- 2. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein all the cross-sectional diameters of said body portion are greater than corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion, each of said corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion being located within the vertical plane which contains each of said cross-sectional diameters of said body portion.
- 3. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has no seams over the portion from said body portion to said bottom portion.
- 4. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a screw thread on said opening portion.
- 5. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a density of 0.4 to 2.0 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.
- 6. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a moisture permeability of 100 g/(m<sup>2</sup>·24 hr) or less.

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7. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a thickness of 0.1 mm or greater and has a corner whose thickness is greater than the thickness of other portions of said article.

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8. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said opening portion has a thick-walled portion which is thicker than said body portion and said bottom portion, said thick-walled portion being formed on the area from the top edge of said opening portion to a prescribed depth continuously or discontinuously over the whole circumference of said opening portion.

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9. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article further has a plastic layer on the outer and/or the inner surfaces thereof.

10. The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a multilayered structure comprising a first pulp layer, a second pulp layer different from said first pulp layer in composition, and a mixed layer located between said first pulp layer and said second pulp layer, said mixed layer has a continuous gradient in composition in which the composition changes from that of said first pulp layer to that of said second pulp layer.

The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article is prepared from, as a paper stock, a slurry containing pulp fiber having an average fiber length of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of 100 to 600 cc, and such a frequency distribution of fiber length as comprises 20 to 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from 0.4 mm to 1.4 mm and 5 to 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than 1.4 mm and not longer than 3.0 mm.

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